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Identical letters dated 5 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 5 September 2001 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression against Iraq by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 14 to 28 August 2001 they carried out 290 sorties, 38 of them from Saudi Arabia, 62 from Kuwait and 190 from Turkey, causing the death of one Iraqi citizen and the wounding of three, as well as the destruction of some civilian installations in the northern region.

The Minister reaffirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of these acts of aggression against Iraqi territory, and he states that international responsibility for them must be borne by the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the logistic support for this aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey. He urges you to perform the duties assigned to you under the Charter by halting this unwarranted aggression and ensuring that it does not recur.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 5 September 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They flew 290 armed sorties in the period from 14 to 28 August 2001, 38 of them from Saudi Arabia, 62 from Kuwait and 190 from Turkey, as shown in the statement enclosed herewith. These raids resulted in the destruction of some civilian installations in Maysan governorate, 360 kilometres south-east of Baghdad. One Iraqi citizen was killed and three wounded in the northern region of Iraq.

This aggression illustrates the criminal attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom towards Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials. The fair-minded nations of the world, including three permanent members of the Security Council, namely the Russian Federation, China and France, have condemned the maintenance of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq as having no basis in any principle of international law. Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the former Secretary-General, has stated that the claim made by the United States that Security Council resolution 688 (1991) authorizes the imposition of the no-flight zones is groundless. At his press conference of 27 June 2001, Mr. Kofi A. Annan also said that there was no basis in the resolutions of the Security Council for the imposition of the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq. His actual words were (SG/SM/7865):

> "You know my position on this, and I have indicated that when you analyse and read the Security Council resolutions I do not see the Security Council resolutions as a basis for that."

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the flimsy excuses and pretexts stemming from this illegal decision that are used by these States in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support made available by the Saudi and Kuwaiti regimes and by Turkey to the United States and the United Kingdom, which includes the provision of air bases, has made them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility under international law. This includes liability for full compensation for the loss and damage, in both human and material terms, that is caused by these illegal practices.

The Government of Iraq further renews its appeal to the countries participating in this aggression to desist forthwith from internationally prohibited acts that violate Iraq's sovereignty, place its security and integrity in grave danger and pose a direct and serious threat to international peace and security.

As it condemns these acts of aggression against Iraqi residential areas and civilian and military installations, the Government of Iraq urges you, given that it has been ascertained that there is no basis in the resolutions of the Security Council for the imposition of the no-flight zones, to perform the duties assigned to you as they relate to the maintenance of international peace and security, to call upon the Governments of the countries in question to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their ongoing aggression against Iraq — an independent sovereign State and a founder Member of the United Nations — and to charge the perpetrators of this aggression and the regional parties that have associated themselves with it, namely Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey with full legal responsibility for their persistence in this crime.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Violations of the airspace of the Republic of Iraq by United States and British warplanes, 14-28 August 2001

1. In the northern region 190 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1150 hours on 14 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Baibo, Amadiyah, Zakho, Aqrah, Dohuk, Ayn Zalah, Mosul, Tall Afar, Irbil and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1445 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1130 hours on 15 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 12 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Mosul and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1215 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1150 hours on 16 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Irbil, Zakho, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Dohuk and Rawanduz areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1100 hours on 17 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 26 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Irbil, Mosul, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Dukan and Aqrah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1100 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1130 hours on 20 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Irbil, Mosul, Tall Afar, Aqrah, Sinjar and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0925 hours on 20 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 36 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Mosul, Irbil, Sinjar, Ayn Zalah

and Tall Afar areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

(g) At 1135 hours on 22 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Baibo, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Dohuk, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Tall Afar, Irbil, Rawanduz, Mosul and Dukan areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1440 hours, drove them off.

(h) At 1020 hours on 26 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil, Mosul, Tall Afar, Sinjar and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(i) At 1030 hours on 27 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Zakho, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Irbil, Sinjar and Ayn Zalah areas. As a result of these armed sorties carried out by United States and British aircraft, one Iraqi citizen was killed and three wounded. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(j) At 1050 hours on 28 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from bases in Turkey and from Turkish airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 armed sorties, were supported by an AWACS aircraft operating inside Turkish territory and overflew the Zakho, Amadiyah, Mosul, Irbil, Baibo, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Sinjar and Dohuk areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1405 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 100 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1238 hours on 14 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 29 armed sorties, eight of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 21 from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Artawi, Salman, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Shatrah, Nasiriyah and Rifa'i areas. The United States and British aircraft bombed and destroyed civilian installations in Maysan governorate, 360 kilometres south-east of Baghdad. Our air defences, acting

in exercise of their legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1640 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0930 hours on 15 August 2001, United States and British F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 armed sorties, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti airspace and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Salman, Lasaf and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1125 hours on 20 August 2001, United States and British F-15 aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out three armed sorties, two of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and one from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf and Ashbajah areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1210 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1043 hours on 22 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 21 armed sorties, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 11 from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ashbajah, Busayyah, Salman, Lasaf and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of the legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1225 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1105 hours on 23 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 10 armed sorties, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi territory and four from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ashbajah, Busayyah, Salman, Lasaf and Artawi areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of their legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1240 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1140 hours on 25 August 2001, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from their bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and from Kuwaiti and Saudi airspace and territorial waters penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 17 armed sorties, two of them from

Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 15 from Kuwaiti territory and by way of the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait with the support of an E2-C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Busayyah, Lasaf, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Hayy, Afak, Nu'maniyah, Kut, Aziziyah and Ali al-Gharbi areas. Our air defences, acting in exercise of their legitimate right to defend the homeland, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.